Writing Tutor Bios

Julia Brennan

Majors: English & Creative Writing
Minor: Philosophy

Julia grew up in Phoenix, a small town just south of Oswego. She spends much of her time reading, and she hopes to attend graduate school to pursue a career as an English teacher. She worked as a writing tutor for the final year of her undergraduate career and loved it, and she is thrilled at the opportunity to be able to tutor for another semester. Aside from reading and writing, she thoroughly enjoys Twenty One Pilots, pizza, Pilates, and studying German.

Alicia Britton

Majors: Public Justice & English
Minor: Forensic Science

Alicia is from a small town near Niagara Falls, NY and is entering her junior year at SUNY Oswego. She is a part of the Mentor Scholar Program where she serves as a Team Leader. In her free time, she enjoys singing, playing her guitar, and being adventurous. Although she is unsure of what she wants to do postgraduation, she is leaning toward a career in the criminal justice system. Her goals as a writing tutor include making people feel comfortable with her and confident in their writing ability as it improves. She is excited to help her peers expand their writing skills and work to their full potential!

Jalen Buckhout

Major: Childhood Education
Minor: English

Jalen is from Yorktown Heights, NY and is entering her senior year at SUNY Oswego. After she gets her degree, Jalen hopes to become a teacher at the elementary level. In her free time, she enjoys reading, writing, and going to the beach. In addition, Jalen loves working with children and is on the swim team at Oswego. As a tutor, Jalen hopes to be able to help her peers reach their full potential and become more confident in their writing abilities.
Shaleena Campbell

Major: Business Administration

Shaleena is a sophomore and from New York City. Although she is from a fast-paced city she is a relaxed person and wants to create a calm environment for students to work in. She was an avid reader throughout high school and owes her strength in essay writing to the knowledge she has gained from it. She hopes to use her skills to assist students in strengthening and developing their assignments. During fall 2017 she participated in the London program.

Zina Campbell

Major: Business Administration

Zina is from New York City, more specifically Manhattan. After spending many summers at the New York Public library, Zina’s love for reading flourished and helped strengthen her writing skills. She enjoys reading amateur written books on an app called Wattpad and then mentally correcting the authors’ grammatical mistakes. Right now, Zina’s major is business administration. However, she is in her sophomore year and hopes to narrow down to a more specific major or pick a minor. She thinks that any student looking for help at the Writing Center should not be apprehensive. Even though she is a writing tutor, she still visits the Center for feedback on her writing assignments. During fall 2017 she participated in the London program.

Rhianna Franchini

Major: Political Science

Minor: Sociology

Rhianna is in her last year at SUNY Oswego and is spending it finishing her honors thesis on education funding in New York State. She hopes to go to grad school for a PhD in political science to continue her research in greater depth. Rhianna loves writing and helping others to develop their writing skills and puts an emphasis on strong arguments in all her papers. She loves reading and will read anything that happens to be around. Rhianna also loves receiving book recommendations and keeps an ever increasing list of books to read.

Julia Graham

Majors: Linguistics & Art History

Minor: French

Julia is a senior from Syracuse, NY. After receiving her degree, she plans to move to New York City to pursue a master's degree in language and literacy. While Julia is able to assist any student in need of tutoring, she especially enjoys working with international students. She is a grammar enthusiast and hopes to help her fellow students strengthen and feel confident in their writing.
Timothy Jones

Graduate Program: Master of Science in Chemistry

Bachelor Degree

Major: Biochemistry

Minor: Biology

Tim will start his MS chemistry program fall 2017. During his bachelor’s degree, he worked on analytical research projects such as measuring volatile organic compound removal by plant pathways and an unbiased methodology for qualitative and quantitative measure of electronic cigarette vapors. However, since graduating, he has shifted focus to more of a biochemical stand point and is currently working on CRISPR analysis. Tim was a Resident Mentor for three years while an undergraduate and is going to be a teaching assistant for the fall 2017 chemistry labs. He specializes in scientific writing, so bring your lab reports! He enjoys video games, computers, basketball, and reading

Ashley Kirkland

Major: Adolescent Education with a Concentration in English

Ashley was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY (Bedford Stuyvesant to be exact). She loves to read and write and dreams of becoming an established poet and English teacher. As a writing tutor, she wants to guide tutees to tap into their highest writing capabilities. She wants to allow their creative potentials to be the forefront of their writing while staying on the given task. Ultimately, Ashley wants to create a tutoring atmosphere that is safe, comfortable, and judgment free.

Hannah Kruse

Majors: Anthropology & Biology

Minor: Forensic Science

Hannah is beginning her final year at SUNY Oswego. She will be conducting research under the guidance of Dr. Blake in the Forensic Anthropology Lab with hopes to present at the Bioarchaeologists’ Northeast Regional Dialogue at Quinnipiac University. In addition to being a writing tutor, she is also a student manager for Fusion Café and Hewitt Kitchen, as well as the Nu Chapter President for Mu Beta Psi National Honorary Musical Fraternity and the secretary for Anthropology Club. Prior to becoming a writing tutor, Hannah was a teaching aid for Genetics Laboratory and Introduction to Archaeology and Human Evolution and gained experience in writing when she studied abroad in Ormskirk, England, at Edge Hill University. Once she graduates, she would like to return to the United Kingdom to pursue a Masters in Forensic Anthropology
Stephanie Lopez

Major: Human Development

Stephanie was born and raised in Mount Vernon, New York. She loves to read romance novels and corny jokes. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Her hobbies include playing the piano, composing music, as well as singing it. She is a first-generation college student and is fluent in both English and Spanish. She understands how difficult it can be for first-generation students to speak up and ask for help, and as a writing tutor she hopes to help students feel welcomed. When Stephanie is not tutoring, she is watching shows like The Office and Friends. Overall, she hopes to create a positive and comfortable atmosphere for students to learn how to become better writers.

Abigail McCormick-Foley

Majors: Psychology & Spanish

Minor: Public Justice

Abby McCormick-Foley is a senior from Albany, NY. She will be attending law school fall 2018. In addition to working at the Writing Center and Tutoring Center, she works as a group exercise instructor and facility attendant at the fitness centers. Abby is very interested in animal rights and has been vegan for four years. She is also in the Honors program and is writing her thesis in English and Spanish about eating disorders. She is eager to help students with any writing topics!

Marissa Michon

Major: History

Marissa is an avid reader and writer and is currently a junior studying history at SUNY Oswego. She has hopes to travel the world when she graduates to learn more about the way the world we live in truly works. When Marissa is not tutoring, she loves to nap, watch Game of Thrones, The Office, and anything trending on Netflix at the time. Her hopes for tutoring are that she can create a positive and relaxed environment that makes her tutees feel at ease when she is helping them with papers and other writing projects.
Jennifer Ofodile

Major: Biochemistry

Two years ago, Jennifer moved with her father and sister from her home in Lagos, Nigeria, to Brooklyn, New York. Currently, she is a freshman whose passion for chemistry was ignited by her family and love of science. Jennifer’s life goal is to become a biochemist/pharmacist. She believes that working as a writing tutor will enhance her knowledge of and confidence with the English language both in writing and communicating. Jennifer also wishes to help other students who are in the process of learning English become better writers and be less intimidated by the English language.

Nellie Owens

Graduate Program: Master of Science in Teaching Adolescence Education in English

Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations & English

Starting her degree at SUNY Oswego, Nellie was a public relations major with a minor in business administration. She took a variety of journalism, communication and marketing classes and developed strong skills in writing and analysis. At the end of her junior year, Nellie studied abroad in Kråkstad, Norway where she completed both a marketing and communication internship, as well as a public relations co-op, for an international nonprofit. Though she gained useful experience in her field, she decided upon her return to the States that she wanted to focus her attention and energies less on the corporate and business world and more on helping others. Nellie dropped her business minor her senior year and added an English major to her public relations degree. Today, she strives to help others develop skills in writing and confidence in their abilities to organize and complete various writing assignments. Nellie currently enrolled in the MST program at SUNY Oswego and plans to become an English teacher after graduation.

Sarah Pasquarelli

Graduate Program: Master of Arts in Strategic Communication

Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Social Interaction

Minors: Gender Studies & Creative Writing

Sarah is a graduate student studying Communication. She is from a small town near Utica, New York. Sarah is the Assistant Hall Director of Johnson Hall. As an undergraduate student, she was a Peer Educator at the LifeStyles Center and an RA in Seneca Hall. She had an internship with the Oswego Children’s Project and spent summers interning at the Refugee Center in Utica. Sarah was a tutor at the writing center during the 16-17 school year and has developed a passion for it. She loves writing and being a resource for students who want to develop their own writing skills.
Christina Prunesti

Major: English

Christina Prunesti is a senior from New Rochelle, New York. She has made Dean’s list for the past two semesters and is eager to learn. In her spare time she likes to watch documentaries, read, and cook. She also loves to spend her time hanging out with friends and is always looking for a new adventure! Christina loves to travel and has recently been to Mexico and Colorado. Additionally, she has traveled with the university to Austria and Germany. She has also taken German here at Oswego for the past three years. She is eager to tutor and offer assistance to her peers with their writing assignments.

Emily Shaben

Majors: Creative Writing & Journalism

Emily resides in Jamesville, a small town located just outside the borders of the city of Syracuse. Emily hopes to inspire young writers to take great leaps in all their work. Growing up, she had always had a soft spot for books; her room at home has many shelves that are lined with them. One day, Emily plans to have her own collection of books, perhaps one will be a memoir. She encourages tutees to feel comfortable coming in with questions of all kinds, whether they be questions about grammar, details, or just how to get started on a paper.

Steven Smith

Steven Smith is a writing specialist at SUNY Oswego. He has been employed at SUNY Oswego since 1986. He teaches composition classes, helps coordinate the Writing Center, and tutors writing. He received his BA in English/Writing Arts from SUNY Oswego in 1982 and his MA in English/Creative Writing from Binghamton University in 1984. He enjoys reading and writing poetry. Other interests include writing humor, watching historical documentaries, and exercising. He knows strong writing skills are essential to communicate in today’s workplace. He finds genuine reward when he has helped students through any challenges or stages of the writing process.

Abby West

Majors: Adolescent Education 7-12 & English

Abby is a junior from Marathon, NY, and she hopes to become a high school English teacher after graduation. She loves working with others to help cultivate their writing, creativity, and communication skills. Abby is also the Practical English Grammar tutor in the Learning Center and is experienced with the use of proper grammar. She believes that every student has the ability to be a talented and effective writer.